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Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the tenth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, which is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999 (see annex).

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Annex

Tenth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

Introduction

1. The present report, which is the tenth[a] submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), covers the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) during the period from 1 June to 31 August 2002.

Briefings and consultations by the Executive Chairman

2. In the period under review, the Executive Chairman has continued his practice of providing monthly briefings to the presidents of the Security Council. He has also kept the Secretary-General and his senior staff informed of the activities of UNMOVIC. He participated in the dialogue held between the Secretary-General and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq in Vienna on 4 and 5 July, including the chairing of discussions at the expert level between UNMOVIC and Iraqi experts. In addition, he has visited Paris and Washington, D.C., for consultations with senior members of the respective Governments. In New York, he has also provided briefings to visiting ministers, parliamentarians and government officials and given interviews to representatives of the media.

United Nations — Iraq dialogue

3. As mentioned above, the Executive Chairman took part in the July round of the United Nations-Iraq dialogue in Vienna. In addition to the plenary meetings led by the Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister of Iraq, the Executive Chairman and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) led discussions at the expert level with an Iraqi team headed by General Amer Al-Sa'adi, who had been the main point-of-contact of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) in respect of chemical and biological weapons issues, and Dr. Jaafar Dh. Jaafar, the high-level contact on nuclear weapon issues.

4. In discussions of the agenda for the meeting of the group of experts, Iraq sought, as it had done during the May round of talks, to have the focus on a review of the activities of UNSCOM and IAEA in Iraq during the period from May 1991 to December 1998, a joint assessment of disarmament issues unresolved at the end of that period and ways and means to resolve them. The joint assessment approach was deemed unacceptable by UNMOVIC. Under the procedures laid down in paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), the Commission is to identify and assess key remaining disarmament tasks after it has had the opportunity to work for some time in Iraq and is able to supplement documentary and any other evidence available to it with observations on the ground.

5. The agenda for talks at the expert level, which was eventually agreed, did nevertheless include as a first item a point giving Iraq an opportunity to put forward its position on unresolved disarmament issues as they appeared at the end of 1998 and on ways and means to resolve them. It further included an agenda item calling for the joint discussion of practical arrangements, including logistics, related to the resumption of inspections. As noted in the Commission's previous report (S/2002/606), the UNMOVIC College of Commissioners had welcomed the intention of the Chairman, during the Vienna round of talks, to focus on acceptance by Iraq of the practical arrangements needed for the resumption of inspections in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and agreements so as to help avoid disputes and misunderstandings during the start and operation of UNMOVIC inspections.

6. During the expert-level talks held in Vienna, the Iraqi side presented the views of Iraq on a number of disarmament issues discussed in the Amorim report (see S/1999/356). The UNMOVIC side explained, as it had done earlier, that the descriptions of unresolved issues in the Amorim report and the UNSCOM document (S/1999/94, annex) were used by UNMOVIC only as input into the analytical work of the

Commission. The Commission's experts also made use of the large archive and looked at the original records, inspection reports, documents of Iraq, supplier information and other information available to it. Conclusions and assessments by UNSCOM and the Amorim panel, while valuable, would have to be used in conjunction with other available information, notably that which will be obtained through the future submission by Iraq of the backlog of biannual declarations and observations made in Iraq by UNMOVIC (rebaselining) after the resumption of inspection work.

7. On behalf of UNMOVIC, the Director of the Division of Analysis and Assessment presented two unresolved disarmament issues in order to indicate the methodology used and what might be expected of Iraq in terms of how the issues might be resolved. The two issues chosen for presentation were the unilateral destruction of Scud-B fuel and oxidizer and the fate of 122mm rocket warheads. It was made clear that UNMOVIC would welcome any comments or information that the Iraqi side might wish to provide on these or any other subjects. It was also made clear that UNMOVIC would be ready to transmit to Iraq for comment the list of key remaining disarmament tasks, which the Commission will draft after having resumed inspection work in Iraq and before the list is sent to the College of Commissioners and submitted to the Security Council.

8. Another issue discussed with the Iraqi side in Vienna was the national implementation measures (including penal legislation) that Iraq is required to enact under the plan for ongoing monitoring and verification approved by the Security Council in resolution 715 (1991), to prohibit Iraqi nationals from engaging in proscribed activity. It was agreed that this was one area in which progress might be made relatively easily.

9. In accordance with the agenda point on practical measures related to the resumption of inspections, the Director of the UNMOVIC Divisions of Planning and Operations and the Director of its Division of Technical Support and Training described a list of issues that included support, provision of minders, communications in-country and with New York, use of the Commission's Baghdad Ongoing Monitoring and Verification Centre, possible establishment of regional offices in Basra and Mosul, installation of monitoring equipment, entry into and exit from Iraq, accommodation of both long-term and short-term staff, enhanced security, landing sites for both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters and overflights in Iraq. It was noted that most of what was mentioned was in line with past UNSCOM procedures but that UNMOVIC wished to reach an understanding with the Iraqi side on these issues prior to the deployment of inspectors and thus help to avoid unnecessary problems when inspections resumed. The Iraqi side said that, in principle, it agreed about the need to have such discussions in detail prior to the resumption of inspections. It was also noted that there were some new elements. The Iraqi side said that the practical measures would have to be looked at in Baghdad.

10. At the end of the talks in Vienna, the Secretary-General stated, inter alia, that the two sides had agreed to maintain contacts, which would include continuing discussions of technical matters.

11. After the meeting in Vienna in July, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, on 1 August, wrote to the Secretary-General expressing, inter alia, the desire of the Government of Iraq to conduct a round of technical talks between Iraqi experts and the Chairman and experts of UNMOVIC in Baghdad to review what had been accomplished during the period from May 1991 to December 1998, to look into the remaining issues as viewed by the former UNSCOM, to study and assess the importance of those issues and to decide upon the measures to resolve them when the inspection regime returns to Iraq. The Minister requested that his letter be conveyed to the members of the Security Council.

12. The letter was discussed informally by the Secretary-General and the members of the Security Council on 5 August, and a reply was sent by the Secretary-General on 6 August, in which it was noted that members of the Council, the Chairman of UNMOVIC and the Secretary-General welcomed the desire of the Government of Iraq to continue the dialogue aimed at reaching a comprehensive solution to the outstanding issues between Iraq and the United Nations. It was also noted that UNMOVIC was guided by, and must act in accordance with, Security Council resolutions and that, in Vienna, the Chairman of UNMOVIC had suggested to the Foreign Minister of Iraq that the most direct and appropriate way to resume the inspection process would be by holding talks at the expert level on practical arrangements for inspections, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Council.

13. In his letter, the Secretary-General drew attention to the terms of Council resolution 1284 (1999) which direct UNMOVIC to draw up, no later than 60 days after it has started work in Iraq, for approval by the Security Council, a work programme which is to include, inter alia, the key remaining disarmament tasks to be completed by Iraq. It also noted that the Security Council had clearly instructed UNMOVIC to start its work in Iraq by identifying and then submitting to the Council for its approval a list of the key remaining disarmament tasks. In closing, the Secretary-General requested the Government of Iraq to confirm that it accepted the sequence of steps outlined in the letter and send a formal invitation to UNMOVIC.

14. A second letter dated 15 August from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq (S/2002/939, annex) did not contain the formal invitation to UNMOVIC sought by the Secretary-General or an acceptance by Iraq of the sequence of steps that had been outlined by him. The Foreign Minister did, however, reaffirm the offer of Iraq to take part in a further series of technical discussions.

Staffing

15. As at the end of August 2002, the UNMOVIC core staff, in the Professional grades at Headquarters, comprised 63 persons of 27 nationalities, of which 10 are women. In addition, there are 220 experts of 44 nationalities on the roster of trained experts available to serve the Commission in Iraq.

Training

16. As part of its efforts to increase readiness, UNMOVIC has continued to attach high priority to the training of its staff and those on the roster of experts. In the period under review, it has conducted four advanced training courses covering biological dual-use items, practical skills and technology for on-site inspections in both the chemical and biological fields, and the operation and management of remote monitoring systems. Preparations are under way for a sixth general training course to be held in Vienna in October and for further advanced courses. Training for staff in New York continues on an ongoing basis. Potential participants are currently being interviewed. The Commission is grateful to those Member States that have supported the training activities.

Other activities

17. As mandated by the Security Council, UNMOVIC has continued to plan for the establishment of a system of reinforced ongoing monitoring and verification, which will implement the plan approved by the Council in resolution 715 (1991) and address unresolved disarmament issues. With respect to the latter, UNMOVIC continues to review and refine its assessment of unresolved disarmament issues, basing itself on all available data and evidence, and to define possible approaches to the issues. At the same time, the Commission continues to group the unresolved disarmament issues into clusters so as to improve the understanding of their interrelationship and potential significance. This work — refinement and clustering — has occupied and still occupies considerable staff resources, especially those of the Division of Analysis and Assessment, and should provide part of the basis both for the future work programme envisaged in paragraph 7 of resolution 1284 (1999) and for the planning of future monitoring, verification and inspection.

18. Preparatory work has continued in the area of inspection planning. UNMOVIC staff have visited 11 laboratories that may offer assistance in sample analysis and proposals have been received from 6 of them. UNMOVIC experts are currently conducting technical evaluations of these facilities. It is expected that further proposals will be forthcoming. UNMOVIC has continued to acquire training quantities of equipment for the inspection mission, such as automatic air samplers, tamper-proof seals, gas masks, nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) protective suits, satellite phones etc., and to discuss with potential suppliers lead times for the delivery of field quantities of such equipment.

19. The central site database has been constructed and data are being entered. This site database has been harmonized with that used by the action team of IAEA. In addition, further work on the format and contents continues with respect to the monitoring declarations required of Iraq under Council resolution 715 (1991).

20. The creation of the UNMOVIC searchable electronic archive and database has continued. Documents continue to be scanned electronically and entered into this central database, which now contains over 30,000 records.

21. UNMOVIC has completed a glossary of terms and definitions, aimed at achieving consistency and standardization in oral and written reporting within UNMOVIC. The glossary has no legal status but is intended to be a practical internal working tool.

Non-inspection sources of information

22. In the continued absence of inspections in Iraq, UNMOVIC has stepped up its efforts to utilize other sources of information both to augment its assessments and to plan for the resumption of inspections.

23. An information manager for open source material has been recruited. Drawing on the experiences of other United Nations agencies, the Commission is exploring the development of its own open source search capabilities and is seeking assistance with appropriate software development. In addition, it continues to engage the services of the Monterey Institute for the review of open source data and has also entered into a contract with the International French Research Institute for similar material, with particular emphasis on European, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern sources.

24. UNMOVIC has continued to investigate alternate sources for commercial satellite imagery in addition to the contracted source already in place. Work to scan aerial images into the archive and link them to the central site database continues.

25. In the period under review, Member States have provided briefings on activities and infrastructural changes at sites subject to monitoring in Iraq. UNMOVIC will continue to seek presentations and products from supporting Governments with access to satellite imagery.

26. The Senior Officer for Outside Information has undertaken further liaison visits to a number of capitals of Member States and to permanent missions in New York with a view to receiving information relevant to the Commission's mandate. Any States with such information are encouraged to assist UNMOVIC in the discharge of its mandate.

Export/import

27. Under the provisions of Security Council resolution 1051 (1996), the joint unit of UNMOVIC and IAEA has continued to receive notifications from Member States of supplies sent to Iraq of dual-use items. Iraq has, however, not provided its corresponding declarations.

28. UNMOVIC has continued to review all contracts concluded with the Government of Iraq under the provisions of resolution 986 (1995) and to provide technical assistance to the Office of the Iraq Programme and to Member States. In mid-July, UNMOVIC and IAEA began assessing new contracts against the goods review list and associated procedures brought into force through the adoption of resolution 1409 (2002). In addition, in accordance with paragraph 18 of the procedures, in all contracts on hold at the time of the adoption of resolution 1409 (2002) are being assessed by UNMOVIC and IAEA against the new criteria of the goods review list. UNMOVIC has recruited further experts to cope with the additional workload. A secure high-capacity data link with IAEA in Vienna has been established to exchange goods review list contracts and assessments.

College of Commissioners

29. The tenth plenary session of the College of Commissioners was held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 and 30 August 2002. As on previous occasions, in addition to the members of the College, observers from IAEA and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons attended.

30. The Executive Chairman gave the Commissioners a report on the work of UNMOVIC since the last session of the College in May 2002 and also on the discussions held in Vienna in July between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq and the Secretary-General, in which the Executive Chairman participated.

31. The College was also briefed on the status of the implementation of the goods review list and the associated procedures for its application.

32. The College welcomed the Executive Chairman's oral and written reports on the recent discussions held in Vienna and expressed its support for and confidence in the Chairman and the approach that he had taken in the talks with the Government of Iraq and in his statements to the media.

33. The College noted that, in the three rounds of talks held in 2002 in the context of the Secretary-General's dialogue with Iraq, UNMOVIC had explained in some detail how it is organized and how it plans to operate correct and effective inspection on

behalf of the Security Council and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Council. The College welcomed the interest expressed by Iraq but regretted that as yet Iraq had not accepted resumed inspections in full conformity with binding Security Council resolutions. In the view of the College, such acceptance and a successful implementation of the Security Council resolutions are indispensable for a comprehensive solution of outstanding issues.

34. Although no date had been fixed for a further meeting in the context of the dialogue, it was nevertheless hoped that the continued contacts between Iraq and the United Nations would lead to an early resumption of inspections in Iraq. It was also stressed that Iraq should follow the sequence of steps that had been outlined by the Secretary-General in his letter dated 6 August 2002 addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq and prescribed with no ambiguity in Council resolution 1284 (1999). The College was of the view that a formal invitation should be sent to UNMOVIC to resume inspections. It reaffirmed the view that it had expressed at its session held in May 2002, that any talks held with Iraq prior to such invitation should focus on the acceptance by Iraq of the practical arrangements necessary for the resumption of inspections in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and agreements. It also reaffirmed its view that such clarification would be necessary before the deployment of any UNMOVIC inspectors to Iraq and that it would help to avoid disputes and misunderstandings during the start and operation of UNMOVIC inspections.

35. The College further welcomed the briefings presented by Christer Elfverson, Director of the Programme Management Division, Farid Zarif, Acting Director of the Contracts Processing and Monitoring Division of the Office of the Iraq Programme, and Rachel Davies, Director of the UNMOVIC Division of Information, on the Oil for Food Programme and on the status of implementation of the goods review list and associated procedures adopted by the Security Council in resolution 1409 (2002).

36. The College decided to hold its next session at the United Nations Headquarters, on 25 and 26 November 2002.

37. In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Commissioners were consulted on the contents of the present report.

Notes

[a] The Commission's nine previous reports were issued as documents S/2000/516, S/2000/835, S/2000/1134, S/2001/177, S/2001/515, S/2001/833, S/2001/1126, S/2002/195 and S/2002/606.